

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1150  
By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize John Benjamin Briley of  
Gallatin.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those young Tennesseans who through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to excellence have distinguished themselves as citizens of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, John Benjamin Briley is one such exceptional young man who has earned honor throughout this state and our nation for his personal excellence and devotion to the greater good; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirteen, he has already joined the ranks of the best and brightest in Tennessee and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin has led a remarkable campaign to designate "Brothers and Sisters Day" in honor of the vital role that siblings of all ages play in the families and communities of America; and

WHEREAS, his quest to honor siblings was inspired by his younger sister, Mary Meggan Briley, when he was in the second grade; he authored a proposal and presented it to his teacher, who was so impressed that she passed it along to the school's principal; and

WHEREAS, on June 2 of that year, the first Brothers and Sisters Day was celebrated at Howard Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the celebration has now spread much farther than the grounds of one school; the mayors of Gallatin, Portland, and Westmoreland have since joined in proclaiming the significance of "Brothers and Sisters Day"; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, the celebration spread to all of Tennessee as Governor Don Sundquist proclaimed June 2 as "Brothers and Sisters Day" in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, having experienced remarkable success in his efforts, Ben continued to promote his vision in hopes that people throughout America would join in celebrating this new and unique holiday; and

WHEREAS, his efforts have been backed by both of Tennessee's United States Senators; Senator Fred Thompson chose Ben as the subject of one of his weekly commentaries and Senator Bill Frist has sent letters of support to President George W. Bush on behalf of Ben; and

WHEREAS, Vice President Al Gore lent his support to the effort and passed the concept along to President Clinton, who designated the third week of November as National Family Week; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin's dream of a national holiday honoring siblings came much closer to being a reality when President Bush issued a proclamation designating June 2, 2001, as National Child's Day; and

WHEREAS, Ben's dedication to his dream is remarkable and an inspiration to all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the son of John R. Briley and Tribby Graves Briley, he is a student at Shafer Middle School in Gallatin; and

WHEREAS, he is an outstanding student and has received numerous honors; he is a member of the Tennessee Individual Education Program, was honored on the United States Achievement Academy Honor Roll, and received the 2002 Seventh Grade Academics Award,

Youth Legislature 2002 Statesman Award, and a John T. Alexander American Legion Post 17 Certificate of Appreciation for Community Service; and

WHEREAS, Ben is also a gifted singer; he has won several vocal awards and performed at numerous events; a true patriot, he has performed the National Anthem at Vanderbilt and Western Kentucky basketball games, youth athletic and community events, and multiple American Legion events; and

WHEREAS, he follows in the strong musical tradition of his family, as his mother is a singer/songwriter with several radio and television appearances to her credit and his great-grandmother, the late Kitty Cora Cline, was one of the first ladies on the Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, Ben's sister, Meggie, is also a gifted vocalist, having performed in several venues and having won the Vocal Award for both Vena Stuart Elementary School campuses; like her brother, she is an honors student and has won awards for academics and citizenship;

WHEREAS, Meggie is richly deserving of approbation for her many achievements and for inspiring her brother to create Brothers and Sisters Day; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Briley's aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for his future success; and

WHEREAS, his noteworthy achievements are a tremendous source of pride for his family, friends, and community; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Briley's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor John Benjamin Briley on his citizenship and impressive achievements, applaud his dedication in promoting the exemplary concept of Brothers and Sisters Day, and extend to him our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

